

ABOUT PREPAREDNESS.

How Does Conscription Sound to You.—Do You Want Your Sons to Forcibly Become Trained Murderers?

Somehow, I just can't reach the point of "patriotism" necessary to consider the administration's preparedness program seriously. It sounds too much like political bunc. While the people of this nation have shown a disposition to stand for anything their rulers see fit to saddle on them, yet I don't believe they would stand for turning this country into an armed camp.

You must always look under the cover if you want to discover what the plutes are doing. And, in my opinion, the crazy preparedness program has for its purpose the smothering of the report of the Industrial Relations Commission. That report convicts the masters of industry of all the crimes charged against them by the Socialists or anybody else. And these masters want to prevent such a roaring noise as to prevent its consideration and discussion by congress—and the overwhelming majority of congress want the same thing.

Just what the noise is about does not matter. If it wasn't preparedness it would be something else. But a campaign for preparedness always awakens the traffickers in murder supplies and "gets the money" for newspaper publicity. Of preparedness Israel Zangwill writes:

"To safe-guard peace we must prepare for war—I know that maxim; it was forged in hell. This wealth of ships and guns inflames the vulgar and makes the very war it guards against. The god of war is now a man of business, with vested interests. So much sunk capital; such countless callings, the army, the navy, medicine, the church, the hotel, the barge, the engineer, the red tape department, the commissaries, stores, transports, ammunition, clothing stations, fortifications, cannon foundries, ship-yards, arsenals, ranges, drill halls, floating docks, war loan promoters, military tailors, camp followers, canteens, war correspondents, horse breeders, armorers, torpedo builders, pipe-clay and metal vendors, big drum makers, gold lace embroiderers, buglers, opticians, tent makers, bannock bakers, powder manufacturers, balloonists, midgets, helleographers, inventors, flying men and diving demons, fleckwhab and all his hosts, who, whether in water, earth or land, among them pocket, when trade is brisk, a million pounds a week."

What must we think of our president, who lends himself to such as above described? A year ago he was proclaimed as the "peace president," and in his speeches he would say "There is such a thing as being too proud to fight."

What has brought about this change in the president? Again we must look under the cover. During the past six months Roosevelt, who was supposed to be dead, has been looming up as a presidential possibility on the Republican side. He is a militarist. The New York and other eastern papers have been thundering preparedness into the ears of Mr. Wilson more and more, and these, together with the profit-mongers behind them, have convinced the president that militarism is popular, and that he must cut the ground from under Roosevelt. It is reported that at heart the president does not favor his preparedness program.

The New York Evening Post, a Democratic paper, and the only capitalist paper in that city, is posing the administration's policy, makes the charge that Mr. Wilson is playing politics. Sam Blythe, an experienced Washington newspaper correspondent, in the Saturday Evening Post, says "there is a vast amount of politics in preparedness. Which causes Allen L. Benson to ask:

"How do you like to have your representatives in Washington fooling around a powder magazine with political matches? Does it never occur to you that if this magazine should go off, it might blow you up? How is your boy getting along? Will he be old enough to be conscripted next year into 541,000 standing army that the Wilson administration is trying to induce congress to establish? That army is a very real danger. The talk of conscription is getting louder every day. Two years ago we should not have thought such a thing possible. Now it is a fact. Only an avalanche of protesting letters to congressmen and senators can prevent the raising of a big army by conscription."

And how foolish is all this preparedness nonsense? Never was this country in less danger of invasion. Who is going to get us? They pretend to fear Germany, after the European war is ended. This implies that Germany will win. If she does not, then there will be no Germany to fight. And if she wins, she will be so exhausted that she will be satisfied to nurse her bruises and behave for a while.

The Germany that emerges at the end of the war will not be the same Germany that went to war—no matter who wins. The

Germany that went to war was the military party—and that has been shot to pieces and will never be permitted to come back. The Germany that is fighting today, and will be fighting at the close of the war, is a new Germany—the people fighting to retain the Fatherland and to prevent enslavement by foreign rulers. The War Lords began this war, but the people will end it, and they will never again permit the existence of War Lords who may, at any time drive them to the slaughter.

I am a pretty good guesser, and I want to say here that, at the close of this war, the terms of peace will not be dictated by a few lawyers, preachers, politicians and other parasites at the banquet table. Rather, it will be a crumbling of thrones and a kicking out of rulers all over Europe.

But they want us to prepare. What for? I can only tell as I see it. Judging from their acts, the powers that be in this country fear that Germany will win. In that case that five hundred million dollar loan made to the allies by Wall Street might look like a pretty nickel. We must be prepared to make Germany assume that debt in case the allies are defeated. And to do this we must have a stronger navy than Germany.

Do you know that this is all the navy is for? A navy is an international constable, and if a nation, or the capitalists of a nation, owes us and we can't get the money any other way, we steam our navy into the ports of entry, take charge of the customs receipts—just as we did at Vera Cruz, Mexico, without any excuse—and take the money.

But, of course, we never do these things with any evil motive. We always wrap ourselves in "the flag" and are guided by "Divine Providence." The chaplain always prays before the first gun is fired. It would not do to slaughter and steal except under the cloak of patriotism and religion. Otherwise it would be just plain murder and robbery.

Not so long ago we were letting go of some great gobs of slobber about the inhumanity of Germany towards Belgium. Our government protested vigorously to Germany about her barbarism and violation of international law.

A little later something else happened. But you didn't hear much about that. This government did just what we had condemned so piously in Germany, and the German government protested against our barbarism and violation of international law.

It was this way, Haiti is a little republic in the Atlantic Ocean. The population is colored. American capitalists have their claws on the little republic and dictate its government. The people rebelled and overthrew the government, but our navy was "Johnnie on the spot" overthrew the people and took charge of the revenues. The Appeal to Reason asks:

"What was the motive of this government of ours in this forcibly occupying Haitian territory at the same time it was hypocritically protesting against the German invasion of Belgium and fine phrases were being turned out by diplomats about the rights of humanity? The ever-powerful motive that is concealed behind most of the acts of modern capitalist governments—the motive of private financial gain. The republic of Haiti was in the debt of American bondholders. The bondholders were afraid they would lose some money. When dollars are in danger, diplomacy unmask and reveals its true capitalist character.

"The United States government sent its 'defense' navy to seize the customs port of Haiti, established officers in control of the civil and financial affairs of the republic and thus collect the aforementioned debt at first hand. The revenues of the Haitian government are now in the hands of military representatives of the United States government. The government of the republic has been subjected to the military control of foreign power and the republic of Haiti now is to all intents and purposes, nothing more than a colony of the United States."

But let us look a little deeper into this preparedness business. At every session of congress for the past 25 years we have heard the same song, and always from those who profit from the sale of war supplies. Usually it is little Japan that is going to get us, but this time it is Germany, and the noise is much louder. They tell us we are unprepared. What has become of the millions and billions already appropriated by former congresses? Who got it? And wouldn't the same chap get the next appropriation?

What do they mean by preparedness? If they mean anything, they mean that we should be bet-

ter prepared to murder than any other nation or group of nations. Suppose, then, we undertake to prepare against Germany. We already have as strong a navy as Germany—and one battleship to spare. But could not Germany build ships as fast as we? Suppose there was really something to all this noise, and congress authorized ten battleships. What would prevent Germany from authorizing twelve?

Capitalism is the craziest conglomeration of errors and contradictions that it is possible to imagine. As a nation we are asked to go "armed to the teeth." A nation is nothing more than an aggregation of individuals and what is wrong in an individual is also wrong in a nation. The magnitude of it does not make wrong right. Yet if a man is caught with a pistol in his pocket he is subject to the penitentiary—provided, of course, he be a poor man—especially a negro.

Suppose a gun dealer persuaded me to believe that John Smith is my enemy and intended to jump on me the first chance and then he sells me a pistol to "prepare" for Smith. Then the same gun dealer tells Smith that he had better watch out; that Hafner was carrying a gun for him—and he sells Smith a gun also. Smith and I never had any quarrel, but we are now watching each other, and each regards the acts of the other as either suspicious or hostile. We have more sense than nations. Yet the gun dealer was at the bottom of it all because of the dirty dollars in profit he got in selling the guns.

THAT is preparedness. Had it not been for the miserable gun-dealer, Smith and I would have lived in perfect peace. What our eminently respectable people will not do for profit is unknown.

CONSIDER THE QUAIL.

From Our Dumb Animals. It is estimated that a single quail destroys 75,000 bugs and 6,000,000 weed seed annually.

A quail killed in Kansas wheat field had the remains of 2000 Hessian flies in its craw, and the Hessian fly causes a loss of \$20,000,000 to the wheat growers of the country every year.

It is not enough to protect the song birds! It is high time to look to the future of the quail, one of the most beneficial of all our birds, lest the sportsman and his dog, the snare, the trap and the net reduce him to total extinction.

The quail's decreasing numbers make it apparent that he cannot be saved from extinction, if classed only as a game-bird. He is a song-bird as well, a pre-eminent insectivorous bird such as nearly all the states protect at all seasons. Why not then give him peace and security by placing him on the song-bird list?

A JAR TO HIM.

"Then you didn't enjoy seeing congress in session?"

"No, I did not," admitted the efficiency expert. "They made so many unnecessary motions."

Judge.

IN THE TRENCHES.

S. C. Sparks of Monroe, La., was a former resident of Scott County and married Mrs. Lillie Hicks (nee Lackey) of Commerce. His son, Ralph, enlisted in the Canadian army and is now in the trenches in Belgium. To his half-brother, Harry Hicks, who is employed in the government navy yards in the east, Ralph wrote:

"This is the life, boy. Get up at noon, work all afternoon, fight all night, and go to bed at 9 a.m. We Canadians get \$12.25 a day. They hold back \$1.05 till the end of the war, so I suppose I will have a little stake when the war is over, if that time ever comes."

Later, while in the hospital, Ralph wrote his father about a charge on the German lines in which he took part. Of the 250 that took part in the charge, but 47 returned and 30 of these were wounded. And the scrap lasted only about three minutes, he writes.

Ralph got a bayonet thru his arm and two bullets in the calf of his leg. The Germans met them about 20 yards from their trenches and the fight was desperate. Ralph writes that he "got" the German who put the bayonet thru his arm—and I wonder what quarrel this American boy and this German boy had that they went to butchering each other at night, although they had never seen nor heard of each other before.

Just to show you how much we value something to eat and drink in the trenches, I will give you a little experience. We are issued a half pint of rum every morning when in the trenches. One day one of the boys took a diamond ring off a German officer, he killed while on scouting duty, and he traded it to me for the rum I had. The next day I was hungry as a dog and traded the rum for a beef sandwich. The ring must have been worth \$500, but we did not have a bit of use for it. You can never tell if you are going to be alive twenty minutes hence."

HOW TO GET WHAT YOU EARN.

By Walter Thomas Mills. Everybody's income is either payment for what he does or it is rent, interest or profit on something that he owns.

Some people get all their income from what they do. They are wage workers only in some form. Some people get all their income from what they own. They are exploiters only. Some people get something from what they do and, besides, something from what they own. They are both wage workers and exploiters to some degree.

The wealth created by the average worker in the United States each year, measured by the prices which the consumers pay, is not less than \$1,100. It is probably much more. It cannot be less.

This \$1,100 in wealth is divided year by year between those who do things and those who own things. On an average the worker gets about \$318 out of the \$1,100 and the exploiter gets the rest. If you are a worker and are getting less than \$1,100 a year, then you are getting less than you earn, or you are less than an average worker. If you are getting more than \$1,100 a year, then you are getting more than you earn, or else you are more than an average worker, and are getting more than an average income, or if you do not work at all or have any income you get you do not earn. Some at all, then all or a part of what

one else must earn it and not get it.

The opponents of Socialism contend that it is all right for anyone to get all he can and keep himself out of jail while getting it without any regard as to whether he earned it or not.

The Socialists contend that whatever one earns he ought to get, that those who earn little ought to get little, and those who earn much ought to get much and those who earn nothing ought to get nothing.

But the only way that those who work can escape paying rent to those who do not work is for the worker to own the land. The only way to escape paying interest to those who do not work is for the worker himself to assume the risk and the responsibility for the creation and management of the enterprise in which he is employed. Then the only claimant against the average product of \$1,100 a year will be the wage worker, and he will get it all.

THE EVIL OF SAVING.

From the Milwaukee Leader. In an insane world the person who acts sanely convicts himself of insanity. Because society wastes by wholesale the individual misers save at retail. Hence the sermon on the virtue of thrift.

Saving presupposes a coming scarcity, otherwise it has no reason. Here taken into a land of eternal summer soon refuse to store up honey. No animal surrounded with continuous plenty would save for the future.

There was a time when man was subject to the caprice of nature, when the coming of frost or drought or disease meant suffering unless a hoard had been hidden against the evil day. Present society makes its own famine. Man has now conquered nature, he has created his own wealth and invented every day sees a greater wealth in the world than existed when the sun went down on the day before.

Saving today is robbing the present to provide for a future that will certainly have greater wealth than we now enjoy. A sane society would let that wealthier future care for those who will live in it.

But we dare not do this because while we have found a way to abolish the famines of nature, we permit society to create famines for the individual. So each one piles up his little hoard and then entrusts it to the control of those who use it to maintain a society of artificial famines and famines.

Some day we will let society save for all of us. We will require each one to give of his resources while health and strength remain and permit no one to rob him of what he produces. Then when he is no longer able to produce he will continue to receive from the common store that a new generation is producing.

In such a society the person who saved would be as foolish as the fish in Lake Michigan that should try to hoard up drops of water against the days when rain should not fall.

TOILING FOR THE MASTERS.

The whole history of civilization is the history of millions of men toiling to produce wealth for the express purpose of paying the enforced demands of landlords, capitalists, a dother masters of the sources of production.—Bernard Shaw

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

MACHINERY AND LABOR.

By R. A. Daguer.

During the past hundred years the world made wonderful progress. The person who is now 50 years old has lived in a period in which there was greater progress toward a higher civilization than for 3,000 years before he was born. There has been greater invention in the last 100 years than perhaps in all the preceding life of the race. Steam and electricity and the wonderful labor-saving machines have wrought a revolution of nearly all the old methods of doing things. A locomotive will pull as much as 1,000 horses or 10,000 men. A 12-year-old boy or girl in a cotton factory can do as much labor attending a spinning machine as several scores of adults could do in the old way of spinning and weaving. A shoe machine enables one man to put the soles on 600 pairs of shoes a day. Franklin could print about 50 of his little newspapers in an hour with his crude screw press. Now the Hoe perfecting press can print tens of thousands while he was printing 50.

In other words one man is now, by the aid of the machine, doing on an average the work of 100 hand workers of a century ago. And inventors have not stopped and will not stop. The result of all this has been to vastly increase accumulated wealth. In 1800 the wealth of the United States was estimated at \$1,000,000,000. Now it is about \$140,000,000,000.

At the beginning of the century the per capita wealth was \$200. Now it is \$1,200. Now, the sad part of all this marvelous development is that this accumulated wealth has not been diffused properly among the people. Those who most deserve their share of it have not received it. The inventor of valuable labor-saving machinery generally died a pauper while the timid capitalist gets the benefit of his great discovery. The operator or laborer who directs the machine gets but little of its earnings.

The shrewd man with money gathers in the lion's share.

A few years ago Dr. Spahr, a reliable statistician after a careful investigation said one-half of the people own practically nothing. One-eighth own seven-eighths of the wealth or 44 times their share; 1 per cent of the people own 74 per cent of all the wealth. One family in every hundred is able to buy out the other 99 families and have something left besides. Finally about .02 of 1 per cent of the people or 4,000 millionaires have 20 per cent of the total wealth, or over 4,000 times their share. If things were conducted according to the co-operative or Socialistic methods.

Since those statistics were published conditions have grown worse. The inequalities of the wealth have enlarged. More workers are out of employment and a few millionaires have become billionaires.

Is there any hope that conditions will grow better under the present economic system? No, absolutely no hope. It is certain that they will grow worse. The railroads now own land enough to make eight states as large as Ohio. Their principal officers get princely salaries and they are stocked for over \$9,000,000,000 more than they cost. They can secure the election or defeat of any candidate from president down. The money power has become a powerful monopoly and can crush all competitors and raise the price of all their products according to their own wishes and by the stroke of a pen displace a thousand workmen. The poor man, the small business man, the farmer, the mechanic—the middle classes are in the mercy of these shrewd manipulators, known as capitalists. The people still have the ballot. With this, they can revolutionize all this condition of things. With this, if they use it wisely, they can save themselves from further degradation and slavery. Do you ask how shall they vote? The answer is they must cease to be led to the polls by the leaders of the old parties whose interest it is to keep the people ignorant, that they may continue the present order of things. They must cease being mere "party men" and become Americans. They must think, think, think and then act as intelligent citizens should act and then vote.

CHILD LABOR.

By Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

No fiedging feed the father bird
No chicken feeds the hen—
No kitten mouses for the cat.
This glory is for men.

We are the wisest, strongest race
Loud may our praise be sung—
The only animal alive
That feeds upon ITS YOUNG!

POOR BURGLAR.

"A burglar got into my house about three o'clock this morning when I was on my way home from the club," said Jones.

"Did he get anything?" asked Brown.

"I should say he did get some-thing," replied Jones. "The poor devil is in the hospital. My wife thought it was me."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Under capitalism a wealthy idiot can ride in a motor car, while a capable workmanman rises on the breakbeams and votes to continue the outrage. Which is the real fool?

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

Maiden Merit.—Judge Evans in the December term of circuit court in Howell county, discharged the petit jury, drawn by the county clerk, and ordered the sheriff to summons a new venire. It developed during the trial of a case that the county clerk did not draw the jury according to law, but a typewritten slip of names was handed to the court, and they were placed upon the jury. The law requires that the jury must be drawn by lot, that is, the judges shall write an equal number of names and these names shall be placed in a box and the county clerk shall then draw out the required number of names. The county clerk and members of the county court of Howell county when placed on the stand to testify as to the manner in which the jury was drawn, refused to answer questions, standing on their constitutional rights that they might incriminate themselves.

Cape Tribune.—While playing on the floor with her Christmas toys Margaret, the two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Latz, Tuesday, swallowed a screw almost an inch in length, which she had taken from a rick-shaw chair. Mrs. Latz, who was busy with her household duties in an other room was attracted to the child by its gasping for breath. The baby's mouth was wide open in its endeavor to obtain air, and the mother noticed the screw, which had lodged in the child's throat. She was afraid to attempt to remove the screw by forcing her finger down the baby's throat, because she thought the child might choke to death. She seized her baby by the feet and lifted it from the floor with its head hanging downward. While in this position she slipped the little air sign-alarm on the back in the hope that she might dislodge the screw. Her heroic treatment proved a success.

Broomfield, Vandalism.—West Plains has recently been systematically worked by counterfeiter. The bills are all fives and some \$10 were reported passed there during the Christmas trade. Several other cities in the state have recently been flooded with counterfeit money, showing that an organized gang is at work in this country. Last October the city of Broomfield was flooded with these bills and after the merchants of Broomfield also were worked, some of the bills were taken in by business men at high-gott rate.

Decker, Messengers.—The cost of last week did thousands of dollars damage to timber throughout the country, and a great many trees in the city were broken by the weight of the ice. The snow, the light winds and several trees broken off at the crown, and hundreds of limbs of trees on the ground. The telephone company possibly had 75 miles of wire down in the country. It was one of the most disastrous cold storms that ever visited us.

Local in Hatter County.—Near Poplar Bluff, recently a beautiful deer as big as a small cow, so the trapper said, scored half to death by a pack of hounds that were chasing the animal madly into a light trap and met with instant death. The deer has fourteen prongs on the horns, and the trapper divided the animal up into quarters and took it to their home.

Years of Age.—A man, one of persons in the north and east part of the court, have been looking to get their stock out of the section covered by Poplar Bluff and Kennett, which is subject to overflow. The water has nearly cut off all travel in that section and is still rising.

Two of the oldest men of Stoddard county died last week. J. R. Kead died at the age of 90, and Jasper Triplett at the age of 87 years.

Then, oh, my dear, a millwright, was caught by a fast revolving shaft at a mill at Burdettville and whirled to death. He was 63 years old.

HELPING A LADY.

"Jack, I wish you would come and see me occasionally."

"Why, Vennessa, I thought you were engaged to Algy Wombat?"

"No, but I think I could be if I could get up a little brisk competition.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

MUSICAL NOTE.

"Here's a fellow," said the Answer to Correspondents editor, "who wants to know what musical instrument produces foot notes."

"Tell him a shoe horn," suggested the sporting editor.—Judge.

There are only three ways of acquiring wealth: First, to create it with your own labor; second, to have it given to you; and third, to steal it. Those who create it with their own labor rest their case here; the multi-millionaire can now take the stand and explain how he got him.

Don't let the good clothes that cover a worthless carcass deceive you. He is tailor-made.

Stick to the unmuzzled Kicker.

OUR SPLENDID "FAMILY BARGAIN" CLUB OFFER

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

OUR PAPER

AND YOUR CHOICE OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MAGAZINE COMBINATIONS, ALL FOR ONE YEAR, FOR \$1.20



WOMAN'S WORLD. The most popular magazine in America reaches over a million homes. Special departments of great interest to women—fashion, home, and householding. Latest fashions and patterns, each month, with lessons in dressmaking, music lessons and songs or an instrumental piece, in nearly every issue, and many other departments. It's the equal of any dollar magazine.

HOME LIFE. The best and cleanest magazine of its kind in the field. Its stories reach the hearts of millions. It is a well known author is completed every four issues. The Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, the world-famed evangelist, writes a monthly sermon and every number contains the latest fashions and newsworld.

UP-TO-DATE FARMING. The only farm paper that teaches the vital lessons of marketing crops at profitable prices and has a successful system of doing it. As a ahead-of-date paper for prosperous farmers.

MISSOURI VALLEY FARMER. One of the publications of Gov. Capron of Kansas. Is interesting, up-to-date, reliable and helpful. Is an all around farm and home magazine and has more than 500,000 subscribers.

POULTRY POST. Caters to both the amateur and professional poultry keeper and furnishes valuable and educational reading matter covering the different branches of poultry culture.

CLUB OFFER No. 1		CLUB OFFER No. 2		CLUB OFFER No. 3	
UP-TO-DATE FARMING	(Semi-M)	MO. VALLEY FARMER	(Monthly)	WOMAN'S WORLD	(Monthly)
POULTRY POST	(Monthly)	PEOPLE'S POPULAR MONTHLY	(Monthly)	THE GENTLEWOMAN	(Monthly)
HOME LIFE	(Monthly)	HOME MAGAZINE	(Monthly)	FARM AND HOME	(Semi-M)
THE HOUSEHOLD	(Monthly)	FARM & FIRESIDE	(Fortnightly)	BETTER FARMING	(Monthly)

A Wealth of Good Reading Matter for Every Member of the Family

This rare offer is an entire library in itself and will supply the reading requirements of the whole family. It is by far the greatest value for the money ever offered to our rural readers, and we urge you to send in your renewal at once while this offer is good. This offer is good for both NEW and RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS. Order today and tell your friends and neighbors before it is too late.

If you want the Kansas City Weekly Star in addition to above, send \$1.35.